DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 350 320 TM 019 073

AUTHOR	Broyles, Susan G.
TITLE	Key Statistics on the Noncollegiate Sector of Postsecondary Education: 1990. E.D. TABS.
INSTITUTION	National Center for Education Statistics (ED), Washington, DC.
REPORT NO	ISBN-0-16-037966-0; NCES-92-090
PUB DATE	Jul 92
NOTE	18p.
AVAILABLE FROM	U.S. Government Printing Office, Superintendent of Documents, Mail Stop: SSOP, Washington, DC 20402-9328.
PUB TYPE	Statistical Data (110) -- Reports - Descriptive (141)
EDRS PRICE	MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	*Enrollment; Full Time Students; *National Surveys; *Noncollege Bound Students; Part Time Students; Postsecondary Education; Research Methodology; School Statistics; Sex Differences; Technical Education; *Two Year Colleges; *Vocational Education; Vocational Schools
IDENTIFIERS	*Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System; Student Surveys

ABSTRACT

This report presents selected findings from the "Consolidated" survey of the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System program of the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). Data are presented on enrollment and completions in non-collegiate postsecondary institutions in the United States and its outlying areas. The NCES surveyed a sample of 2,998 of the 6,509 non-collegiate postsecondary schools in the fall of 1990. Nearly 1 million students were enrolled in such institutions in the fall of 1990. Of the total enrollment, over 50 percent were women, and approximately 66 percent attended school full time. For-profit institutions made up 53 percent of the total. Approximately 64 percent of the students were enrolled in less-than-two-year institutions. Approximately 710,000 students completed programs in these institutions between July 1, 1989 and June 30, 1990. The survey methodology is described, and the summary statistics are presented in seven tables. (SLD)

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Key Statistics on the Noncollegiate Sector of Postsecondary Education: 1990

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Key Statistics on the Noncollegiate Sector of Postsecondary Education: 1990

Susan G. Broyles
Postsecondary Education Statistics Division

U.S. Department of Education
Office of Educational Research and Improvement NCES 92-090

U.S. Department of Education
Lamar Alexander
Secretary

Office of Educational Research and Improvement
Diane Ravitch
Assistant Secretary

National Center for Education Statistics
Emerson J. Elliott
Acting Commissioner

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July 1992

Contact:
Susan G. Broyles
(202) 219–1359

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Superintendent of Documents, Mail Stop: SSOP, Washington, DC 20402-9328
ISBN 0-16-037966-0

Introduction

This report presents selected findings from the "Consolidated" survey, which is part of the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) program conducted by the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). IPEDS provides comprehensive data on the nation's postsecondary education enterprise; however, this report will be limited to a subset of the IPEDS universe--the noncollegiate sector.

This publication contains data on enrollment and completions in noncollegiate postsecondary institutions in the United States and its outlying areas. NCES surveyed a sample of 2,998 of the 6,509 noncollegiate postsecondary schools in the fall of 1990. For purposes of this report, the noncollegiate schools are defined as those institutions on the IPEDS file that (1) are not accredited at the college level by an agency recognized by the Secretary, U.S. Department of Education; and (2) do not grant a bachelor's, master's, doctor's, or first-professional degree.

The tables included in this report present national estimates for enrollment and completions based on sample data. The survey methodology section contains an explanation of the sampling techniques and the weighting procedures.

Fall enrollment data reflect student counts as of the institution's official fall reporting date or October 15, 1990. More than half of the institutions in the noncollegiate universe are less-than-2-year institutions, whose programs are often of short duration, and students may enroll in them at any point during the fall term. Thus, enrollment over the entire fall term at the less-than-2-year institutions will be somewhat higher than what is reported here, which is as of a single point in time (October 15). Completions data are for the entire 12-month period from July 1, 1989 through June 30, 1990, and data are therefore comparable for institutions with programs of varying length.

Highlights

- Nearly 1 million students were enrolled in noncollegiate postsecondary institutions in the fall of 1990. Over one-half were women and about two-thirds attended full time.
- For-profit institutions accounted for 53 percent of the total enrollment, while public institutions attracted a 33 percent share.
- The largest number of students, 616,000 or 64 percent, were enrolled in less-than-2-year institutions.
- About 710,000 students completed programs in these institutions between July 1, 1989 and June 30, 1990.
- About 63 percent of the awards were in programs of under 1 year, while a substantial number of awards (nearly 202,000 or 28 percent) were in programs of at least 1 but less than 2 years in length.

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Survey Methodology

Overview

The Consolidated (CN) survey form was used for the first time in 1990-91 to collect information from the noncollegiate schools, a subset of the 10,500 postsecondary institutions in the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) universe. IPEDS collects information on such topics as institutional characteristics, enrollment, completions, finance, staff, and libraries. All schools in the IPEDS universe are asked to complete an institutional characteristics form; however, data on the other topics are collected from a sample of institutions. Approximately 3,600 accredited institutions of higher education (i.e., those that are accredited at the college level by an agency recognized by the Secretary, U.S. Department of Education) plus another 400 "non-accredited"[1] schools that grant a bachelor's, master's, doctor's, or first-professional degree were asked to complete the full complement of IPEDS surveys. The remaining 6,500 noncollegiate postsecondary schools were eligible to receive the CN survey form.

The CN form was sent to all non-accredited schools that grant certificates beyond the bachelor's level, all non-accredited 2-but-less-than-4-year institutions, all non-accredited public less-than-2-year schools, and a sample of 1,200 non-accredited private less-than-2-year-schools. In all, 2,998 noncollegiate institutions received the CN form in 1990.

The following data were requested from the noncollegiate schools using the CN survey form: (a) fall enrollment for 1990, by racial/ethnic category and sex of student; (b) completions for the 1989-90 academic year, by field of study and award level and by racial/ethnic category and sex of recipient; (c) financial statistics for fiscal year 1990; and (d) selected data on libraries. The single CN form substituted for the four detailed IPEDS surveys that were sent to the institutions of higher education, as defined above. The CN form is an abbreviated survey form especially designed for the smaller non-accredited institutions, thus the data items are not normally as detailed as those on the individual IPEDS survey forms.

Institutions that received the CN form were not accredited at the college level at the time the forms were mailed; however, during the processing cycle, 31 institutions changed status and became institutions of higher education. Data from these institutions have been removed from the tables.

Coverage

The Consolidated (CN) survey forms for 1990 were mailed to 2,998 noncollegiate postsecondary institutions in July 1990, including 91 4-year and above institutions that granted *only* graduate-level certificates; all 1,411 "non-accredited" 2-year institutions, and a sample of 1,496 less-than-2-year institutions.

During the data collection period, 393 institutions were deleted from the CN survey universe. The deletions resulted from formal notification by IPEDS state coordinators, the Department of Education eligibility notices, and from followup telephone calls. Included in

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[1] "Non-accredited" schools are those that are not accredited at the college level by an agency recognized by the Secretary, U.S. Department of Education.

the deletions were schools that had closed, those that no longer offered postsecondary education, and duplicates on the file. This E.D. TABS also excludes data from the 31 schools now considered institutions of higher education that completed CN surveys.

Followup

Extensive followup activities began in January 1991, and were conducted by telephone. The Computer-Assisted Telephone Interview (CATI) system was used to solicit selected key data from institutions that did not file a CN survey. Institutions were requested to supply information on fall enrollment, completions in the three largest programs, and finance and library data. Partial respondents (those that completed selected parts of the survey form) were not contacted during followup.

The overall institutional response rate was calculated as the ratio of the number of responses divided by the number of schools eligible for the survey (i.e., the number of forms mailed minus the number determined to be out-of-scope). Two schools were added to the CN file after mailout. These schools were mailed IPEDS forms, but lost their accreditation during the processing cycle, and thus were no longer considered institutions of higher education. A summary of the institutional response is provided in Table 3. More detailed information on institutional response can be found in Table 4. Note that counts included in this table are based on the final determination of institutional sector; they do not reflect sector at time of mailout. For instance, if a school was in sector 7 (public, less-than-2-year) at mailout, but changed to sector 4 (public, 2-year), it is considered a sector 4 school in all columns of this table.

Because response rates varied widely by Part (i.e., Part A - Enrollment, Part B - Completions)--Table 5 is provided to display response rates by Part.

Edit and Error Resolution

During editing, all forms were checked for CIP code validity and addition errors. For fall enrollment, row totals were generated and compared to reported totals. For completions, row totals were generated and compared to the reported totals for each award level and CIP program category. If the reported totals were within pre-established tolerance levels, the difference between the reported total and the generated total was placed into a "balance" column; otherwise, institutions were contacted to resolve the discrepancies.

Totals were generated for each racial/ethnic category and the grand total columns for men and women were compared with the reported totals. When detail data in each column did not add to the totals reported, those within tolerance were corrected. Institutions were contacted to resolve all other discrepancies.

The data for each institution were also compared to the prior year's reported data to ensure consistency in reporting. If the difference between the earlier response and the 1990 response was out of range, the institution was called for verification.

Imputation Procedures

After the editing of the CN form was complete, the file was split into four separate files: enrollment, completions, finance, and libraries. Data were combined with the information collected from the institutions of higher education before assessing the file to determine where imputations were needed. NCES imputed data for nonsampled nonrespondents to Part A (fall enrollment) and Part B (completions) only. Imputations for parts A and B were performed as part of the imputation process for the Fall Enrollment (EF) survey and the Completions (C) survey. These imputations were primarily based on the prior year's response for institutions that filed IPEDS surveys in 1989. Otherwise, donors were selected for nonrespondent institutions using a hot deck methodology.[2] Sampled schools were not imputed if they did not respond. Instead, weights were adjusted for those sampled schools that did respond. Once imputations were complete and the sample weights were adjusted for nonresponse, the CN portions of each file were copied back into the CN database.

There were no imputations performed on Parts C (finance) and D (libraries), because of the unique characteristics of many of these schools. For this reason, there has been no attempt to estimate national totals in these two areas for the noncollegiate postsecondary schools.

1990 Sample of Private Less-Than-2-Year Institutions

A nationally representative sample of institutions in the private nonprofit and private for-profit less-than-2-year sectors was drawn with probability of selection proportionate to the square root of enrollment. Interval sampling was used, sorting the sampling frame by stratum (see section on stratification), sector, and zip code.

Sampling Frame

The sampling frame used for this sample was the best available as of June 1990, and contained 5,054 private nonprofit and private for-profit less-than-2-year institutions. Of the schools in these two sectors, 1,200 were selected.

Stratification

The sampling frame was divided into two strata: (1) institutions that had previously been sampled through the IPEDS survey system; and (2) new institutions in the 1990-91 IPEDS universe that had responded to the previous year's Institutional Characteristics (IC) survey and were determined to be in the private less-than-2-year category. Since enrollment data were collected on the IC survey, the two strata were sampled with probability proportionate to the square root of enrollment after adjustments were made for expected response rates.

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[2]Hot decking involves inserting individual values drawn from similar responding units. Imputations for schools with no prior response were based on hot deck selection of similar institutions that provided valid reports. A donor school was randomly selected from the same stratum as the nonresponding institution, where strata were defined by size (number of students enrolled) and sector. Sector is determined by institutional control and highest level of offering.

Derivation of Weights

The base weights are the inverse of the sampling probabilities. The final sample weights were produced by adjusting the base weights to account for nonresponse by other institutions in the sector and stratum. Note that weights were adjusted on the separate files (EF and C) before reassembling the CN file.

National Estimates

National estimates were produced by taking the value for each institution and multiplying it by the institution's sample weight to get a weighted value. The weighted values were then summed over all institutions in the sectors of interest. The sample weights reflect the fact that each sampled institution represents not only itself but also other (nonsurveyed) institutions in the same stratum.

Size Measure

The sample was drawn proportionate to size, with size defined as the square root of total enrollment. The square root was used to provide a good compromise between a sample optimized for student counts and a sample optimized for school counts. Using a size measure of 1 for each school would provide an exact match of school counts by stratum. Using a size measure of total enrollment would provide an exact match of student counts per stratum, but a relatively poor match of school counts. This is because of the large variation in total enrollment per institution. Total enrollment as a size measure would also provide an exceptionally poor sample of small schools.

Sampling and Nonsampling Error

There are two kinds of errors which affect the accuracy of an estimate based on a sample survey: sampling and nonsampling. Sampling error is the error in an estimate which occurs because the estimates are based on a probability sample of institutions, rather than on all institutions. Nonsampling errors are those errors which would remain even if a complete census of the institutions were attempted, including errors due to nonresponse, reporting errors, and others discussed below under the heading "Nonsampling Error."

Item Nonresponse

Data collected through the Computer-Assisted Telephone Interview (CATI) system may not be as complete as data supplied by institutions that responded in writing. For example, data collected by CATI on completions by CIP code and level were requested for the three programs with the largest enrollment only and were limited to total men and total women (no racial/ethnic breaks were requested). Thus, the numbers in the tables may underestimate the total number of degrees awarded. All completers in these institutions are shown as race unknown in the tables.

Sampling Errors

The sampling standard errors for the major program enrollment statistics in this survey were estimated using a balanced repeated replication methodology. These standard errors enable one to construct confidence intervals. For example, if all possible samples were selected, each of these being chosen under the same conditions as the current sample,

then 95 percent of the intervals from 1.96 standard errors less than the estimate to 1.96 standard errors more than the estimate would include the average result of all possible samples. The sampling standard errors have been estimated by a procedure called balanced repeated replication. This procedure takes into account the complexities of the sample design and the weighting of institutions.

Nonsampling Error

The percentages of institutions responding to the survey by sector and stratum vary by Part. Weighting adjustment, described previously, partially corrects for any bias on the sample responses due to nonresponse error. ("Bias" is the difference, averaged over all possible samples, between the estimated and true value of a quantity.) However, biases will persist to the degree that the responding institutions in a sector and stratum are not representative of the nonresponding institutions. For example, it may be that larger institutions are more likely to respond than the smaller size ones.

In addition to nonresponse, there are many other potential sources of nonsampling error. These include definitional difficulties, differences in the interpretation of questions, errors by the institutions providing the data, and errors made in recording the data. No measure of the nonsampling error from such sources is currently available.

Acknowledgments

The author wishes to thank the many institutional respondents who invested their time and effort to report accurate data; the reviewers for their helpful comments; and the editorial staff for their technical expertise.

Table 1.--Postsecondary enrollment in noncollegiate institutions, by type and control of institution, and by attendance status and sex of student: Fall 1990

Attendance status and sex of student	Total	Type of institution		
		4-year	2-year	Less-than-2-year
Total	965,872	28,769	320,806	616,297
Men	400,848	18,830	146,803	235,215
Women	565,024	9,939	174,003	381,082
Full-time	655,610	19,515	206,534	429,561
Part-time	310,262	9,254	114,272	186,736
Public	321,020	85	157,636	163,299
Private, total	644,852	28,684	163,170	452,998
Nonprofit	128,635	26,952	49,564	52,119
For-profit	516,217	1,732	113,606	400,879

NOTE: Detail may not add to totals due to rounding.
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, "Consolidated" survey, 1990.

Table 2.--Completions below the baccalaureate level in noncollegiate postsecondary institutions, by level of award, sex of recipient, and control and type of institution: 1989-90

Control and type of institution	Total	Level of award							
		Less-than-1-year		1-but-less-than-2-years		Associate's degree		2-but-less-than-4-years	
		Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
Total*	710,557	201,346	247,668	72,309	129,588	7,009	6,589	22,668	23,380
4-year-and-above	6,711	1,152	1,556	296	324	146	113	1,593	1,531
2-but-less-than-4-year	138,995	24,432	29,770	17,999	22,159	6,818	6,432	15,446	15,939
Less-than-2-year	564,851	175,762	216,342	54,014	107,105	45	44	5,629	5,910
Public	153,575	43,056	41,889	23,745	29,651	1,086	605	8,622	4,921
Private, total	556,982	158,290	205,779	48,564	99,937	5,923	5,984	14,046	18,459
Private, nonprofit	56,982	11,155	8,903	10,275	11,451	669	652	4,948	8,929
Private, for-profit	500,000	147,136	196,876	38,288	88,486	5,254	5,332	9,098	9,530

* Because of the methodology used for nonresponse followup, the number of awards conferred by these institutions may be underestimated.
NOTE: Control and type are determined by an institution's response to the Institutional Characteristics (IC) survey. Responses to the "Consolidated" survey, as noted in the table, may not match IC. Detail may not add to totals due to rounding.
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, "Consolidated" survey, 1990.

Table 3.--Institutional survey response to the Consolidated survey: Fall 1990

Sector	Mailed	Deleted	Added	Final universe	Responded	Response rate
Total	2,998	393	2	2,607	2,472	94.8
4-year						
Public	7	0	0	7	6	85.7
Nonprofit	92	15	0	77	74	96.1
For-profit	13	2	0	11	11	100.0
2-year						
Public	265	29	0	236	234	99.2
Nonprofit	508	79	0	429	410	95.6
For-profit	525	87	1	439	402	91.6
Less than 2-year						
Public	280	25	1	256	241	94.1
Nonprofit	131	15	0	116	112	96.6
For-profit	1,177	141	0	1,036	982	94.8

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, "Consolidated" survey, 1990.

Table 4.--Number and response rates of noncollegiate postsecondary institutions receiving the Consolidated survey, by control and type of institution: Fall 1990

Type of institution	Total	Public	Private		
			Total	Nonprofit	For-profit
			Institutions receiving		
All postsecondary	2,607	499	2,108	622	1,486
4-year-and-above	95	7	88	77	11
2-but-less-than-4-year	1,104	236	868	429	439
Less-than-2-year	1,408	256	1,152	116	1,036
Higher education	31	2	29	7	22
4-year-and-above	4	0	4	2	2
2-but-less-than-4-year	24	1	23	5	18
Less-than-2-year	3	1	2	0	2
Noncollegiate (other postsecondary)	2,576	497	2,079	615	1,464
4-year-and-above	91	7	84	75	9
2-but-less-than-4-year	1,080	235	845	424	421
Less-than-2-year	1,405	255	1,150	116	1,034
			Institutions responding		
All postsecondary	2,472	481	1,991	596	1,395
4-year-and-above	91	6	85	74	11
2-but-less-than-4-year	1,046	234	812	410	402
Less-than-2-year	1,335	241	1,094	112	982
Higher education	28	2	26	6	20
4-year-and-above	4	0	4	2	2
2-but-less-than-4-year	21	1	20	4	16
Less-than-2-year	3	1	2	0	2
Noncollegiate (other postsecondary)	2,444	479	1,965	590	1,375
4-year-and-above	87	6	81	72	9
2-but-less-than-4-year	1,025	233	792	406	386
Less-than-2-year	1,332	240	1,092	112	980
			Response rate		
All postsecondary	94.8	96.4	94.4	95.8	93.9
4-year-and-above	95.8	85.7	96.6	96.1	100.0
2-but-less-than-4-year	94.7	99.2	93.5	95.6	91.6
Less-than-2-year	94.8	94.1	95.0	96.6	94.8
Higher education	90.3	100.0	89.7	85.7	90.9
4-year-and-above	100.0	0.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
2-but-less-than-4-year	87.5	100.0	87.0	80.0	88.9
Less-than-2-year	100.0	100.0	100.0	0.0	100.0
Noncollegiate (other postsecondary)	94.9	96.4	94.5	95.9	93.9
4-year-and-above	95.6	85.7	96.4	96.0	100.0
2-but-less-than-4-year	94.9	99.1	93.7	95.8	91.7
Less-than-2-year	94.8	94.1	95.0	96.6	94.8

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, "Consolidated" survey, 1990.

Table 5.--Number and response rates of noncollegiate postsecondary institutions receiving the Consolidated survey, by control and type of institution and by survey part: Fall 1990

Type of institution	Total	Public	Private		
			Total	Nonprofit	For-profit
			Institutions receiving		
Total, noncollegiate	2576	497	2079	615	1464
4-year-and-above	91	7	84	75	9
2-but-less-than-4-year	1080	235	845	424	421
Less-than-2-year	1405	255	1150	116	1,034
			Institutions responding		
Part A - Enrollment	2416	476	1940	585	1355
4-year-and-above	87	6	81	72	9
2-but-less-than-4-year	1016	232	784	404	380
Less-than-2-year	1313	238	1075	109	966
Part B - Completions	2367	471	1896	571	1325
4-year-and-above	86	6	80	71	9
2-but-less-than-4-year	992	229	763	394	369
Less-than-2-year	1289	236	1053	106	947
Part C - Finance	1884	408	1476	472	1004
4-year-and-above	67	3	64	57	7
2-but-less-than-4-year	806	195	611	330	281
Less-than-2-year	1011	210	801	85	716
Part D - Libraries	1398	349	1049	347	702
4-year-and-above	38	4	34	31	3
2-but-less-than-4-year	669	176	493	259	234
Less-than-2-year	691	169	522	57	465
			Response rate		
Part A - Enrollment	93.8	95.8	93.3	95.1	92.6
4-year-and-above	95.6	85.7	96.4	96.0	100.0
2-but-less-than-4-year	94.1	98.7	92.8	95.3	90.3
Less-than-2-year	93.5	93.3	93.5	94.0	93.4
Part B - Completions	91.9	94.8	91.2	92.8	90.5
4-year-and-above	94.5	85.7	95.2	94.7	100.0
2-but-less-than-4-year	91.9	97.4	90.3	92.9	87.6
Less-than-2-year	91.7	92.5	91.6	91.4	91.6
Part C - Finance	73.1	82.1	71.0	76.7	68.6
4-year-and-above	73.6	42.9	76.2	76.0	77.8
2-but-less-than-4-year	74.6	83.0	72.3	77.8	66.7
Less-than-2-year	72.0	82.4	69.7	73.3	69.2
Part D - Libraries	54.3	70.2	50.5	56.4	48.0
4-year-and-above	41.8	57.1	40.5	41.3	33.3
2-but-less-than-4-year	61.9	74.9	58.3	61.1	55.6
Less-than-2-year	49.2	66.3	45.4	49.1	45.0

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, "Consolidated" survey, 1990.

Table 6.--Standard errors for postsecondary enrollment in noncollegiate institutions, by type and control of institution, and by attendance status and sex of student: Fall 1990

Attendance status and sex of student	Total	Type of institution		
		4-year	2-year	Less-than-2-year
Total	59,298	---	---	59,298
Men	20,507	---	---	20,507
Women	42,491	---	---	42,491
Full-time	48,105	---	---	48,105
Part-time	17,158	---	---	17,158
Public	---	---	---	---
Private, total	59,298	---	---	59,298
Nonprofit	17,333	---	---	17,333
For-profit	46,685	---	---	46,685

--- Data are not affected by the sample estimates.
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, "Consolidated" survey, 1990.

Table 7.--Standard errors of completions below the baccalaureate level in noncollegiate postsecondary institutions, by level of award, sex of recipient, and control and type of institution: 1989-90

Control and type of institution	Total	Level of award							
		Less-than-1-year		1-but-less-than-2-years		Associate's degree		2-but-less-than-4-years	
		Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
Total	157,900	45,968	100,288	5,139	15,122	25	29	1,598	1,712
4-year-and-above	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
2-but-less-than-4-year	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Less-than-2-year	157,900	45,968	100,288	5,139	15,122	25	29	1,598	1,712
Public	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Private, total	157,900	45,968	100,288	5,139	15,122	25	29	1,598	1,712
Private, nonprofit	59,623	24,386	31,549	2,394	3,889	0	0	1,121	311
Private, for-profit	99,886	25,021	69,295	4,577	12,934	25	29	1,081	1,677

--- Data are not affected by the sample estimates.
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, "Consolidated" survey, 1990.

ISBN 0-16-037966-0

United States
Department of Education
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